



## No More Nukes!

By JOHN KINSMAN

Nuclear power is not only unnecessary, it is among the costliest and potentially the most dangerous ways to produce electricity - which is why investors demand loan guarantees and taxpayer subsidized liability insurance, rather than risk their own dollars building new nuclear plants. Nonetheless, just five days after the Fukushima disaster in Japan, U.S. Energy Secretary, Steven Chu, was testifying before Congress wanting to build more nukes. In fact, Pres. Obama is proposing \$36 billion to entice private industry to build the plants while cutting billions from renewable energy alternatives. This \$36 billion in fresh loans is over and above the \$18.5 billion already approved under the Bush administration. Apparently, the nuclear lobby enjoys bipartisan support.

The World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace International have done authoritative studies that show the U.S. and the world could shed dependency upon fossil fuels and nuclear power and shift to real green energy by 2050 if governments chose to do so. But can we, and the governments who supposedly represent us, rise above corporate profit and bureaucratic inertia to stop global climate change and serve the better interest of society as a whole?

Putting corporate interests first meant a fourteen hour delay before the managers of the Fukushima plant began pumping seawater into the overheated reactors, and this delay allowed a disaster of horrific consequences to unfold. According to the Wall Street Journal, it took a direct command from the Japanese Prime Minister to start the pumping. After all, introducing seawater would permanently ruin the reactors and render the company's assets worthless. Besides the brave Japanese workers who are sacrificing themselves in the battle to

stop this meltdown, who is next to suffer from these inevitable nuclear accidents? Why, of course, farmers, fishers, gardeners, and consumers who have to dump milk, destroy animals, and bury produce that has been contaminated by fallout. The same thing happened after Chernobyl when the Lapplanders were forced to kill thousands of their prized reindeer and tons of tainted produce had to be pulled from European farmers markets and grocery shelves. We will all be living with Fukushima for generations to come.

Corporate proponents of more nuclear plants in the U.S. claim their safety is assured because they are designed to withstand earthquakes of the highest magnitude. The Fukushima reactors were also built based upon this principle, but they did not plan for other unpredictable events that could trigger a meltdown. With global climate change, we are experiencing natural disasters of greater intensity and frequency - floods, hurricanes, droughts, tornadoes - that were previously thought impossible. And, as shown by the BP Gulf Oil spill fiasco, corporate dominated decision making does not add human error, sabotage, safety violations, and greed into the equation. No doubt General Electric's cost cutting Mark 1 Reactor design had a role to play in the Fukushima disaster, which is why the GE engineers were right to resign in protest 35 years ago when their safety concerns were overruled by GE executives. Incidentally, GE managed to pay no taxes to the U.S. government this year.

Here in Wisconsin there is also a renewed push to expand nuclear power plants, while failing to seriously pursue other greener alternatives. Worse yet, as spent fuel rods pileup at existing reactors on the shores of Lake Michigan and on islands in the



Mississippi River, eyes are shifting to Wisconsin as a potential host for a national high level radioactive waste dumpsite. One can only imagine the inherent dangers with transporting such waste by truck, ship, and train across the continent to our North Woods for burial forever.

In 2008 the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science, and Technology for Development (IAASTD), sponsored by the World Bank and five U.N. agencies, issued its long awaited study. The study's conclusion calls for a transformation of the world's food and farm system towards smallscale sustainable agriculture. According to the 400 scientists and development experts from more than 80 countries involved in the study, this is the only way to cool the planet and feed the world, and the IAASTD's finding has already been endorsed by 58 countries. These small family farms work with nature and require far less fossil fuel and electricity demand - in contrast to industrial agriculture which is responsible for 25% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Concerned citizens need to contact their elected officials at both the state and federal level to oppose these misguided taxpayer subsidized proposals to build more nukes. The U.S. should be following the example of Germany - where 2% of all electricity now comes from solar - and impose an immediate moratorium on new reactors pending a comprehensive safety review of existing ones. Better yet, there are the examples of other nations - like Australia, Denmark, and Malaysia - that have refused to go down the nuclear road at all. Renewable green energy could easily fulfill all our electricity needs and make dangerous unsustainable options like nuclear obsolete.

## THE DAIRY MILK PRICING CRISIS

REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA FAMILY FARM DEFENDERS

MARCH 15, 2011

Gerald Carlin, Chairman



### What you can do

[www.cop4dairy.com](http://www.cop4dairy.com)

12 steps you can do

- Farmers need cost of production coupled with a supply management system that will prevent another devastating price collapse.
- Write to your Congressman and Senators tell them that the current milk pricing system is **BROKEN!**

Producers Federation's (NMPF's) "Foundation for the Future" (FFTF) nears completion as legislation and its benefits are widely being touted, Pennsylvania Family Farm Defenders (PA F.F.D.) is concerned that there are serious reasons to believe that the alleged benefits of FFTF are vastly overstated.

Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), University of Missouri, did an analysis of NMPF's FFTF program soon after the plan was released in June of 2010. FAPRI projected that the average price of milk paid to dairy farmers would be no higher under NMPF's program, than if nothing were to be done at all, perhaps even slightly lower.

"Margin insurance" is a key part of the FFTF. Under FFTF, the government, which everyone knows means "tax-payers," would provide a base level of "margin insurance." According to NMPF's own graphs, only about nine months in the last 10 years would have triggered payment in the base program. Any additional insurance would have to be purchased by the already financially strapped dairy farmer above the cost share by the Federal Government. Essentially farmers would be paying for "margin insurance" even though the average price of milk will not likely increase.

Lenders may insist that farmers purchase this "margin insurance" in order to obtain financing. Small farms which were eligible for Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program payments on their full production will almost certainly come up short under NMPF's program if, as expected, the MILC program which made direct payments to dairy farmers when milk prices dropped below a certain level,

is eliminated and replaced by the "margin insurance" program.

"Competitive Pricing" when there is little competition in the market place, is not likely to increase farm milk price since the survey will show what processors think milk should be worth.

"Make Allowances" would supposedly be done away with, but, in fact, processors will be figuring their costs into the value of milk, thus having even more freedom to "cover their costs" than under the current system.

NMPF is comprised of many dairy cooperatives which were established under the Capper-Volstead Act of

1922. This Act gave co-ops collective bargaining rights that are supposed to be used to give dairy farmers economic power in the "marketplace." By failing to focus on fair prices for their dairy farmer membership, these co-ops have violated the spirit of the Capper-Volstead Act.

Both NMPF and the Dairy Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC) have failed to address trade practices that result in lower farm milk prices.

The Pennsylvania Family Farm Defenders rejects the claim that FFTF will benefit dairy farmers and calls instead for a pricing system that is based on dairy farmers total cost of production with a common sense supply management or growth management system that allows young farmers to enter the dairy business.

The PA F.F.D. is a chapter of the Family Farm Defenders (FFD), a Wisconsin based organization whose mission is to create a farmer-controlled and consumer-oriented food system. FFD has worked to create opportunities for farmers to join together and forge alliances with consumers while returning a fair price to farmers.

**For milk pricing information based on cost of production please visit [www.cop4dairy.com](http://www.cop4dairy.com).**

There you will find a background for cost of production and other useful information that highlights the serious challenges facing America's dairy farmers and consumers, plus an analysis of NMPF's Foundation for the Future. It is time that farmers get informed on what is being done "on their behalf"

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